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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/630,808	07/31/2003	Takeshi Iwami	00862.023165	9790

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EXAMINER

MCLEAN, NEIL R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2609

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/630,808

Applicant(s)

IWAMI ET AL.

Examiner

Neil R. McLean

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/24/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-5, 7-8, 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ozawa et al. (US 2003/0016378)

Regarding Claim 1:

A digital camera (10 in Figure 1) having a function of directly transmitting a digital image to a printer (12 in Figure 1), comprising:

display means (34 in Figure 4) for displaying, before completion of a print process of a digital image transmitted from said digital camera to the printer, information indicating that a cable can be disconnected from said digital camera or the printer ([0070]).

Regarding Claim 2:

A digital camera having a function of directly transmitting a digital image to a printer, comprising:

display means for displaying, before completion of a print process of a digital image transmitted from said digital camera to the printer, information indicating that said digital camera is ready to photograph ([0064] and [0065]).

Regarding Claim 3:

A printer for printing a digital image directly transmitted from a digital camera, comprising:

a function of informing the digital camera of reception of all digital images transmitted from the digital camera ([0126]).

Regarding Claim 4:

A digital camera which can be directly connected to a printer via a cable, and has a function of directly transmitting a sensed digital image data, comprising:

checking means for checking if a reception end message is received from a connected printer, after digital image data to be printed is transmitted while the cable is connected ([0129]); and

display means for, when said checking means receives the reception end message, displaying information indicating that the cable can be disconnected ([0130]).

Regarding Claim 5:

A printer which can be directly connected to a digital camera via a cable, and prints an image received from the digital camera, comprising:

print control means for starting a print process upon detection of transmission of an image to be printed from the digital camera([0120]); and

transmission means for, when reception of the image to be printed is complete during the print process of said print control means, transmitting predetermined information that allows to disconnect the cable to the digital camera ([0055]).

Regarding Claim 7:

A method of controlling a digital camera which can be directly connected to a printer via a cable, and has a function of directly transmitting a sensed digital image data, comprising:

a checking step of checking if a reception end message is received from a connected printer, after digital image data to be printed is transmitted while the cable is connected ([0072]); and

a display step of displaying, when the reception end message is received in the checking step, information indicating that the cable can be disconnected ([0070]).

Regarding Claim 8:

A method of controlling a printer which can be directly connected to a digital camera via a cable, and prints an image received from the digital camera, comprising:

a print control step of starting a print process upon detection of transmission of an image to be printed from the digital camera ([0065]); and

a transmission step of transmitting, when reception of the image to be printed is complete during the print process in the print control step, predetermined information that allows to disconnect the cable to the digital camera ([0069]).

Regarding Claim 10:

A digital camera having a function of directly transmitting a digital image to a printer, comprising:

display means for displaying, before completion of a print process of a digital image transmitted from said digital camera to the printer, information indicating that said digital camera can be brought outside a communication area with the printer ([0127]).

Regarding Claim 11:

An image input apparatus having a function of directly transmitting a digital image to an image output device, comprising:

display means for displaying, before completion of an image outputting process of a digital image transmitted from said image input apparatus to the image output device, information indicating that a cable can be disconnected from said image input apparatus or the image output device ([0127]).

Regarding Claim 12:

An image input apparatus having a function of directly transmitting a digital image to an image output device, comprising:

display means for displaying, before completion of an image outputting process of a digital image transmitted from said image input apparatus to the image output device, information indicating that said image input apparatus is ready to photograph ([0064] and [0065]).

Regarding Claim 13:

An image input apparatus having a function of directly transmitting a digital image to an image output device, comprising:

display means for displaying, before completion of an image outputting process of a digital image transmitted from said image input apparatus to the image output device, information indicating that said image input apparatus can be brought outside a communication area with the image output device ([0127]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa et al. as applied to claims above, and further in view of Tanaka et al. (US 7,170,627).

Regarding Claims 6 and 9:

Ozawa et al. teaches all of the above claims except for notifying the user of an error in the printing process. Tanaka et al. in the same field of endeavor that if any error occurs in the printer, the printer transmits, to the camera a "PrintDisable" message (Column 13, lines 59-61). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the digital camera of Ozawa et al. that communicates with a printer with Tanaka et al.'s notification of error message to the digital camera when an error message is detected. The motivation to do so would have been to inform the user of a printing error and allow the user to curtail the printing process or cancel the print command.

Conclusion


4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tamura et al. (US 6,806,978) discloses The present invention relates to a print producing apparatus, an image displaying apparatus and an image capturing and printing apparatus having both of a function of electronic camera and a function of printer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neil R. McLean whose telephone number is 571.270.1679. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30AM-5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Liu Shuwang can be reached on 571.272.3036. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2609

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Neil R. McLean
05/14/2007



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER